

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 (Currently amended). A method of illuminating a backlit display, said method comprising the step of spatially varying the luminance of a light source illuminating a plurality of displayed pixels in response to a plurality of pixel values dependent on the content of an image to be displayed on said display and modifying the illumination from said display based upon a filter that is determined at least in part by a non-uniform illumination profile of said light source, and varying the transmittance of a light valve of said display in a non-binary manner, wherein said light source is spatially displaced at a location at least partially directly beneath said plurality of pixels, wherein regions of said image that are sufficiently dark are attenuated by reducing the luminance of said light source, wherein regions of said image that are not said sufficiently dark are not attenuated in the same manner as said sufficiently dark regions by reducing the luminance of said light source, wherein different regions of said light source ~~spatially displaced at said location simultaneously~~ provide different non-zero luminance, modifying the light to be output from said display by rescaling said output from said display in such a manner to alter the tone-scale of said output from said display from a state that would have substantially non-uniform tone-scale to a state that has substantially uniform tone-scale resulting from the luminance of said light source.

2 (Canceled).

3 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein a relationship of said pixel values and said luminance of said light source is a nonlinear relationship.

4 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of filtering pixel_value for a plurality of pixels.

5 (Canceled).

6 (Previously presented). The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of sampling said filtered intensity value for a spatial location of said light source.

7 (Previously presented). The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of rescaling a sample of said filtered intensity value to reflect a nonlinear relationship between said intensity of said light source and said intensity of said displayed pixel.

8 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- (a) operating said light source at substantially a maximum luminance if a luminance of at least one displayed pixel exceeds a threshold luminance; and
- (b) otherwise, attenuating said luminance of said light source according to a relationship of said luminance of said light source and a luminance of a plurality of pixels.

9 (Previously presented). The method of claim 8 wherein the step of attenuating a luminance of a light source according to a relationship of said luminance of said light source and a luminance of a plurality of pixels comprises the step of attenuating said luminance of said light source based upon of said luminance of said light source and a mean luminance of said plurality of pixels.

10-26 (Canceled).

27 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein said spatially varying the luminance is based upon low pass filtered pixel values.

28-29 (Canceled).

30 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 further comprising variably reducing luminance of a portion of said light source based upon a dark local spatial area of said pixel data.

31-32 (canceled).

33 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 further comprising non-linear modification of said pixel values in a manner that simulates a CRT display.

34-35 (Canceled).

36 (New). A method of illuminating a backlit display, said method comprising the step of spatially varying the luminance of a light source illuminating a plurality of displayed pixels in response to a plurality of pixel values dependent on the content of an image to be displayed on said display and modifying the illumination from said display based upon a filter that is determined at least in part by a non-uniform illumination profile of said light source, and varying the transmittance of a light valve of said display in a non-binary manner, wherein said light source is spatially displaced at a location at least partially directly beneath said plurality of pixels, wherein regions of said image that are sufficiently dark are attenuated by reducing the luminance of said light source, wherein regions of said image that are not said sufficiently dark are not attenuated in the same manner as said sufficiently dark regions by reducing the luminance of said light source, wherein different regions of said light source provide different non-zero luminance.